

LAA Times

LYME ART ASSOCIATION ❖ 90 LYME STREET ❖ OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371

LAA Welcomes Bob Potter As New Executive Director

As we say goodbye and share our thanks and appreciation to Jeanne Ledoux-Stewart for her leadership and service for the past four years, we welcome Bob Potter as the new Executive Director of the Lyme Art Association. We are very fortunate to have Bob leading the Lyme Art Association. He brings a depth of experience in marketing and development in the corporate world as well as the non-profit sector—a new level of skills that will help us achieve our goals of improving services both for our members and the community.

Bob and his family have bought a home in Old Lyme, moving from Washington, D.C., where he most recently served as Deputy Corporate Relations Officer for the National

Gallery of Art. In that role he partnered with Fortune 500 companies to fund the National Gallery's art, education, film and music programs. Prior to that, Bob has had an impressive career in corporate marketing and communications with America Online, the National Geographic Society, Book of the Month Club, and Time-Life Books. He holds a BFA degree in Advertising Design from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University and is a native of St. Joseph, Missouri. His wife Jeanne is an artist and is currently a faculty member and Assistant Director of Continuing Education at the Corcoran College of Art & Design in Washington, D.C. They have two sons, Andrew a



Bob Potter "signs-up" as LAA's new Executive Director.

recent RISD graduate now working in New York City, and Jamie, a sophomore at Brown University.



Jim Christley, *Clearing the Connecticut River*, watercolor, 16" x 20"

12th Annual Associates Show Opens

February 21 – March 27

Warming up the winter months will be the 12th Annual Associates Show. "We expect this year's show to be the best one ever," predicts Brenda Baker, the Associate Show Chairperson. "Visitors will see an exciting exhibition of nearly 200 works by Member Associate Artists." Friday February 20 was the gala opening with gourmet food, exceptional wine, and Brenda's dazzling flower arrangements. Visitors saw a "new" Goodman Gallery, with refinished floors,

freshly painted walls, and the installation of track lighting. President Jerry Litner welcomed members and guests thanking Brenda and all of her volunteers. He also encouraged members to "pick up one of the little white envelopes at the entrance" and make a contribution to help us finish the floors, painting, and track lighting for the rest of the galleries.

12th Annual Associate Show Key Dates:

Opening Reception on Friday, February 20, at 6-8pm, and Removal on Sunday, March 28, 1-4pm and receiving for the *Colors of Spring* Exhibition.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Statement of A Vision



We have just finished a record year both in terms of our finances and our membership growth. And reading through this newsletter it is self-evident that the Lyme Art Association is entering a very dynamic phase in our existence.

But behind and beyond this success there is a VISION!

The vision driving us is that Old Lyme should become recognized as a pre-eminent art center, not only in New England, but in the entire country. And that the Lyme Art Association should have a central role in the realization of this vision.

The LAA is the inheritor of the ideal of representational and impressionist art in America. It is our charge to protect this worthy tradition.

We are beginning an era when the three art institutions of Old Lyme — the Florence Griswold Museum, the Academy, and LAA (plus the Cooley Gallery) are working together to build an awareness of our contribution to the world of art and our unique place in that world. Our Association plays a key role in this picture, since we are not only physically the center of the triad of institutions, but we are also functionally at the center since we are the exhibition point for all the fine works of you, our member artists.

Our exhibition and instructional schedule are important elements of our contribution to the satisfaction of this vision. And the more we can do to enhance this vision the more we can do to enhance the values we bring to our members and bringing value to our members is what this Association is really all about.

That is our vision!

Jerry Litner

LAA Welcomes Docents from The Florence Griswold Museum

by Linda Ahnert

“Now ye, that I, Florence Griswold, of the Town of Old Lyme . . . for the consideration of One (\$1.00) Dollar . . . do give, grant, bargain, sell, and confirm unto the said Lyme Art Association a certain tract of land . . .” Miss Florence wrote that deed on November 23, 1917. The artists who boarded with her and who exhibited their works at the town library each summer now owned the piece of property where they would build a permanent art gallery to exhibit their work.

And so on January 19th, the LAA was delighted to welcome a group of Flogris docents to the gallery for a “meet and greet.” Linda Ahnert, a docent at Flogris, organized the presentation. On display were artifacts from the LAA archives including newspaper clippings, photographs, posters advertising the early shows (admission was 50 cents), china and ‘LAA’ monogrammed silverware. The docents could also read

a copy of the deed written in Miss Florence’s very legible handwriting. Linda pointed out the clause that guaranteed Miss Florence “the exclusive privilege of gathering ice on the pond.” The brook and pond, which is the dividing line between LAA and the Florence Griswold Museum, was once the source of Miss Florence’s refrigeration.

Miss Florence became the first manager of the LAA gallery and remained so until her death in 1937.

After learning about the historic connection between the two organizations, the docents were encouraged to share our story with their visitors and send them “across the bridge” to visit the Association as part of the Old Lyme art story and the continuing legacy of Miss Florence. The docents were invited to view the current exhibition and to join in an old LAA tradition—a tea party.



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LAA Times is a quarterly publication of the Lyme Art Association, a non-profit Institution. LAA supports the creation and appreciation of representational art work, the heritage of Old Lyme painters, and the preservation of the LAA historic galleries.

Lyme Art Association
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Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

LAA Welcomes Four New Elected Artists

by Angie Falstrom, Chair Screening Committee 2003

We were pleased to welcome four new Elected Artists into our membership in 2003. Selected from a group of eleven applicants, their works were on display in our galleries for several weeks, allowing Elected Artist members to view them and cast their votes. The voting culminated at our Annual Fall Meeting on September 4th. We offer our congratulations and look forward to working with them at the Lyme Art Association.

Terry Oakes Bourret

Terry has been a fine artist and art teacher for over twenty years. She works primarily in oil and oil pastel and has won more than eighty awards, many of them in national competitions. This winter she is teaching a class at the LAA entitled "The Right Way of Drawing."

Jan Royce Conant

Much of Jan's art reflects her love of animals and her background as an equestrian. An LAA Trustee, Jan was educated at the Boston School of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Cincinnati Art Academy. She works in

oil and watercolor and has illustrated seven books.

Donna Martell

Donna has received many awards for her pastels and is a member of the Connecticut Pastel Society, the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, and is an Elected Artist Member of the Mystic Art Association.

Kent Winchell

Kent grew up in Old Lyme and attended classes at the LAA at an early age, later studying at the Pratt Institute and Lyme Academy. His oil landscapes are exhibited at local galleries and art associations.

The deadline for applying for Elected Artist Membership this year is August 1st. An informational meeting will be scheduled for sometime in June to clarify the process and criteria for prospective candidates, and to answer any questions they may have. Please watch for further information on this, or notify a staff member if you are interested in applying so that you can be contacted.

ART^{co} New England 2004

*An Exhibition and Sale of Works By
New England Artists*

July 10–August 21, 2004

The LAA will again be hosting this year's exhibition open to all LAA members and to all residents of the six New England states of ME, VT, NH, RI, MA, and CT. Representational work done in oils, watermedia, pastel, drawings and sculpture are eligible. Prints including monotypes, monoprints, computer generated art, photography, and crafts are not eligible. LAA Co-chairs for the *Art of New England 2004* are Diane Aeschliman, Judy Chapman, and Sandy Garvin.

KEY DATES:

April 20	Slide entry deadline to LAA.
May 17	Notification of juried results by mail. After May 17, you may call (860) 434-7802.
July 5	Receiving of all accepted works at LAA 10 AM–7PM hand delivered by artist or agent.
July 9	Opening reception 6-8PM. Awards at 7PM.
Aug 22	Pick-up all work 10AM–5PM by artist or agent.

Award Winning Artist Burton Silverman to Jury Art of New England Summer Show



Self-portrait by Burton Silverman.

The LAA is honored to have Burton Silverman, one of America's foremost realist painters and portrait artists, as Juror for this year's *Art of*

New England Show. He has won 32 major awards from national exhibitions, including five awards from the National Academy of Design. He has had 26 one-man exhibitions and his works are in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Denver Art Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of American Art, and the Butler Institute of American Art. He was elected in 1990 to the

Society of Illustrators' Hall of Fame, and in 1992 was one of only 3 electees to the Pastel Society Hall of Fame. He has been commissioned to paint portrait covers for *Time* magazine, portraits for the *New Yorker*, and has been featured in *Art News*, *International Artist*, *American Artist*, and *The Artist's Magazine*. In 1999, a major retrospective of his work was shown at the Butler Institute of American Art and the Brigham Young Museum in Utah.



It's with great excitement and anticipation that LAA welcomes the Plein-Air Painter's of America (PAPA) back to Old Lyme for another workshop and seminar scheduled for October 10–16, 2004. PAPA artist instructors will arrive a week prior to the workshop and paint en plein-air Connecticut scenes which will be on view and for sale at the Association Gallery from October 16–November 27. Non-attending PAPA members will also be sending work for exhibition and sales.

Founded in 1986, the Plein-Air Painters of America is a group of exceptional artists dedicated to the historic tradition of painting directly from life. PAPA exhibitions and sales are held from coast to coast, and eagerly attended by collectors of fine art.

Art Education for Students of All Ages and Skills

by Anna Swain

LAA members took advantage of an array of art classes and workshops this past fall. In addition to the wide range of classes for students of all skills and ages taught by LAA instructors, we also offered a two-day workshop with Boston's Craig Srebnik. The workshop focused on understanding and applying the techniques of painting skin tone and the figure. LAA hopes that Craig will return for a follow up session.

The LAA also hosted the Plein Air Painters of America 7th Annual Workshop. Twelve instructors and 133 students from across the United States and Canada convened at the LAA for lectures, critiques, demonstrations, and instruction in plein air painting. We look forward to PAPA returning to Old Lyme this October.

In January, Connecticut Plein Air Painter, Barbara Lussier, lead a brave trio out to paint the icy CT River and snow covered pastures of Ashlawn Farm. Barbara appropriately titled her workshop "White Out."

Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts Instructor and LAA Elected artist, Nancy Peel Gladwell, perfectly complemented the winter exhibition "Interiors" with her works and an informative lecture. She spoke in-depth about the history of painting interiors, which culminated in a session regarding her own works. More of Nancy's work is on display at the Academy in



Nancy Peel Gladwell compliments the *Interiors* exhibition with her artwork and a lecture.



Instructor Christopher Zhang takes advantage of the Gallery's natural light for his portrait painting class.

their current Instructor Exhibition running through March 6.

In response to our member's interest in improving their own artistic skill through the ongoing all season classes, the LAA has organized a series of winter workshops and critiques listed below:

Upcoming Winter Workshops at the LAA

Watercolor Workshop with Lou Bonamarte

A two day workshop that covers the basics of watercolor painting!
Friday & Saturday, March 12 & 13, 2004
9AM-2PM in the Goodman Gallery
\$85 for members/\$100 nonmembers

Landscape Critique with Diane Aeschliman and Doug Smith

Reflection on Rejection—Landscape critique - Two artworks each
Thursday, March 18, 2004
6pm FREE!

Call (860) 434-7802 for information.

‘Potluck’ Supper Artist Meeting—Food For Thought

by Angie Falstrom

Helping improve communication and sharing ideas between all Artist Members at the LAA is an ongoing goal of APEC,” said Judy Chapman, an Elected Artist and APEC (Artistic Policies and Exhibitions Committee) Chairman, at the opening of this year’s first Potluck Supper Artists’ Meeting on January 21. “And of course having fun!” added Judy. Lively discussion was the order of the evening with a wide range of topics covered and suggestions made.

Participation and Volunteering:

President Jerry Litner kicked-off the meeting, emphasizing the importance of volunteerism by LAA members and the need for expanding the ranks of volunteers “and not just relying on the same core group to do everything. A volunteer organization should be fun, with a sense of team spirit.” One suggestion was that Receiving Day may be the best time to recruit volunteers. Bob Potter expressed the benefit of an effective process to manage the volunteers and the need for a team to take on the role of Volunteer Coordinators which Loretta Bernier has done so effectively over the years, but is now relinquishing.

Membership: It was suggested that the LAA hold a “Welcome Evening” for new students of the Academy each year, and offer a free or discounted student membership. Currently, LAA gives free membership to Academy graduates. Other ideas: create a *Lyme Arts Calendar* for tourists to promote Old Lyme as a major arts destination. Elin Larson suggested holding all-day seminars at the LAA with two or three lectures scheduled for an intensive art education event.

Guaranteed Number of Works and Hanging of Shows: After conversation with many Elected Artists, APEC has decided to increase the Elected Artists’ guaranteed number of works from one to two. Several new Associate Artist members present at the meeting expressed that “quality is key” and that our standards should remain high. It was said that artists have more places to show their work now and the LAA must “carve out its niche” and be known for high quality art shows.

Applying for Elected Artist Status:

Recommendations were made to better communicate the criteria used by the Screening Committee and it was decided that a letter will be written to clarify criteria for jurying work and sent to future applicants. One artist suggested we should make it a “big deal” when we have newly elected artists. She thinks they should be mentioned in the *NY Times*. Also more “mentoring of artists” offered by Elected Artists.

Entry Fees: It was discussed and agreed by the members present that we should increase the entry fees for shows to \$11 for Elected Artists and \$11 for the first entry/\$8 for each additional entry for Associate Artists. The increase would help cover the mounting costs of food and beverages for opening nights. This issue will be voted on at the Annual Spring Meeting on May 27th.

Jurying: Having a jury “foreman” was suggested, and also distributing a written criteria to guide the jurors would help improve the current jurying process. Lisa Horrigan suggested key criteria such as “original,

creatively strong, and competent works.” David Ward emphasized “the ability to design, compose, draw and model with proper perspective, and for painters to be adept at handling values, color, edges, and atmospheric qualities. Presentation should be a factor, so jurors need to consider the choice of mats, frames and hangers.” The foreman will remind jurors of key criteria, that their decision is final, and the goal of selecting approximately 200 works per show.

APEC will continue to work on written criteria for jurying, guidelines for applicants for Elected Artist status, and on reworking the Elected Artist application form. Everyone in attendance agreed holding future “potluck” dinners was a great way to meet members and discuss ideas.

LAA Members Present:

Elected Artists:

Diane Aeschilman
Judy Chapman
Richard Christofferson
Chris Dixon
Angie Falstrom
Sandy Garvin
Lisa Horrigan
Sylvia Marsh
Karen Maynard
Rich Nazarro
David Ward

Associate Artists:

Kay Clarke
Judy Friday
Elin Larson
Jerry Litner
Barbara Marks
Helen Fleicher

Staff:

Bob Potter
Anna Swain

LAA Events Calendar

2004

Fri February 20	Reception 6-8 pm
Feb 21-Mar 27	Twelfth Annual Associate Artists Exhibition
Sun March 28	Removal/Receiving, 1- 4 pm
Fri April 2	Reception, 6-8 pm
April 3-May 8	Colors of Spring Exhibition
Sun May 9	Removal/Receiving, 1- 4 pm
Mon May 10	Expressions Installation
Fri May 14	Reception 5-8 pm
Sat/Sun May 15-16	Expressions (Gallery Rental)
Sun May 16	Removal 4-6 pm
Mon May 17	Receiving, 2-7 pm
Fri May 21	Reception, 6-8 pm
Thurs May 27	Spring Membership Meeting 7 pm
Sun May 30	Gallery Closed May 30th, Gallery Rental
May 22-July 3	Midsummer Exhibition LymeLight 2004 with CT Boaters Guide Cover Competition
Mon June 14-16	Summer Solstice en Plein Air Paint-Out
Sat Jun 19	Summer Solstice Auction
Mon July 5	Removal/Receiving 10-7 pm
Fri July 9	Reception 6-8 pm
July 10-Aug 21	Art of New England 2004
Fri Jul 30, 5-7 pm	Old Lyme Mid-Summer Festival Open House
Sat Jul 31 all day	Old Lyme Mid-Summer Festival Open House
Sun Aug 22	Removal 1-4 pm
Sun Aug 23-29	Pet Connections (Gallery Rental)
Mon Aug 30	Receiving 2-7 pm
Fri Sept 3	Reception 6-8 pm
Sept 4-Oct 8	Local Color: Elected Artist Exhibition Elected Artist Nominees in Goodman Gallery
Thurs Sept 9	LAA Annual Fall Membership Meeting 7 pm
Sat Oct 9	Receiving/Removal 10-5pm
Oct 10	8th Annual PAPA Workshop: Orientation 7-9 pm
Oct 10-15	8th Annual PAPA Workshop
Oct 16-Nov 27	Plein Air from Coast to Coast Exhibition
Lecture/Event	TBA
TBA	Reception 6-8 pm
Sun Nov 28	Receiving/removal 1-4 pm
Fri Dec 3	Reception 6-8 pm
Dec 4- Jan 8, 2005	The Gift of Art
Sun Jan 9, 2005	Removal 1-4 pm

Thank You and Appreciation: Our gratitude and best wishes to *Jeanne Ledoux-Stewart* the Associations' Executive Director for the past four years, *Annie Mchugh* for her work in Development, *Linda Ahnert* who oversaw Education and Archives, and *Helen Barnett* who has so ably managed LAA Exhibitions and Publicity.

A Warner Brother Presentation: Our thanks and appreciation to Warner Swain, Anna's brother, for volunteering to paint the café area which now can be additional studio art instruction space! Coming attractions: Painting the studio and hallway floors and walls!

Goodman Gallery Make-Over: Diane Aeschliman, Angie Falstrom, and Susie Stutts have been hard at work overseeing the re-painting and new lighting

for the Goodman Gallery with architectural and lighting designer Jonathan Islieb. LAA is indebted to Tom and Darlene Ryder for their generous gift which supports the painting of our historic gallery.

Needed Items: Do you have a Kodak Carousel projector and slide tray? A good refrigerator? A comfortable chair for our library? Would like to perform music at an opening event? All needed and welcomed at the LAA. Just let Bob or Anna know.

LAA Artist News: Please send to Bob Potter any news on exhibitions, awards, honors and other artistic activities and achievements of our members to share in next month's newsletter. Call, write, or email.

Help Wanted: LAA needs a volunteer with experience in fundraising and grant writing. We also need a Volunteer Coordinator Team to assign and coordinate volunteers for exhibition support and other Association activities. Contact Loretta Bernier (739-5884)

Spring Exhibition Volunteers: Thank you Donna Martell, Lisa Horrigan, David Ward, Loretta Bernier, Jim Christley, Mary Ann Canella, Catherine Elliott, Helene Johnson, Sue Van Winkle, Jim Tripp, Tall Renault, Dianne Flemming, Fred Schavoir, Katie Beecher, Nancy Chapman. *We welcome more volunteers—it takes 20 to 30 people to put on a show!*

LAA Awards Scholastic Gold Key Winner

by *Helen Barnett*

For the past fifteen years, the Connecticut Art Education Association has sponsored the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards competition and exhibition held at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford.

The Connecticut Scholastic program is part of a national endeavor created in 1923 by Maurice R. Robinson, founder of Scholastic Inc., publisher of children's books and educational materials. The purpose was to "ensure that young people receive attention where they might otherwise be faced with indifference." Scholastic Art Awards have become the largest and longest-running program of its kind in the country. A National Awards ceremony follows at Carnegie Hall in June and then a month-long exhibition of finalists at the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C. Past winners in art and writing have included some of America's most respected talents including Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Frances Farmer, Joyce Maynard, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Redford, and Andy Warhol.

The Lyme Art Association contributed a \$100 prize for the "Best in Traditional Drawing" for this event. This year LAA's Director Bob Potter presented the award to Gold Key recipient Natalia Torres, a 9th grade student at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville at an awards ceremony at the Lincoln Theatre at the University of Hartford.

In presenting the award, Bob noted "Scholastic and these awards have both a personal and nostalgic appeal for me. My wife and son both won the Scholastic gold key when they were students and I started my career at Scholastic Magazines after art school. Our son continues the tradition, working at Scholastic Magazines in New York after his graduation from art school."

Other LAA connections: Associate Artist Jack Montmeat was one of the Scholastic jurors this year. Helen Barnett, LAA's publicist, serves on the Connecticut Art Education Association's Regional Advisory Board which organizes the event.



LAA Director Bob Potter presents Gold Key winner Natalia Torres with check from the Lyme Art Association.

The Platt Capital Campaign

by James B. Murphy, II, Chairman, LAA Board of Trustees

I am particularly excited to take on the Chairmanship of The Board of Trustees at a time when the Lyme Art Association and its new Director Bob Potter are immersed in plans to celebrate the building's architect, Charles A. Platt.

Charles Adams Platt (1861-1933) was a multi-talented artist who distinguished himself as an etcher, painter, landscape architect, and architect. He was, in the words of one critic, "a Twentieth Century Renaissance Man." Yet, his credentials as an architect cannot be challenged. Platt beat out Frank Lloyd Wright for the prestigious Harold McCormick house commission in 1908. He was equally successful in the design of public buildings including the Freer Gallery in Washington, DC, the Clark Wing for the Corcoran Gallery of Art also in Washington, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, the University of Illinois, and

Phillips Academy, Andover, MA.

Over the next eighteen months, the Lyme Art Association will embark on a capital campaign in Platt's name to improve our historic Lyme Street gallery and gardens that he designed in 1920 for the legendary Lyme summer art colony. The campaign, with a goal of \$200,000, will culminate in a gala opening and exhibition of Platt's paintings, etchings and architectural renderings in the fall of 2005.

I invite our members and interested readers of the newsletter to continue the tradition of generosity that Platt himself initiated when he donated \$16,170.26 and his services to the original members of the Lyme Art Association, by calling on all of our current Association members who are interested in preserving this important building to express their interest in support of the Platt Capital Campaign.



James B. Murphy, II is a playwright and journalist. In addition to chairing the Trustees of the Lyme Art Association, he is a member of the

Executive Committee of the O'Neill Theatre Center and has served on the boards of the Florence Griswold Museum and numerous other Shoreline arts organizations. He originated the Musical Masterworks chamber music series. A recent convert to the mysteries of figurative painting and drawing, he plans to follow in the footsteps of his great, great grandfather William Morris Hunt, a founder of the American Barbizon. He admires the artistic spirit of American Renaissance men and women.



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